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SIX NEW AREAS ADD 86,000 ACRES TO BIRD REFUGES

Six new areas in five States have added more than 86,000 acres to the Federal system of bird refuges within the last 5 months, says the U. S. Biological Survey.

They are the Lacassine Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Louisiana; Aransas Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Texas; Huron Migratory Bird Refuge in Michigan; the Black Coulee and the Hewitt Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuges in Montana; and Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in North Carolina. An addition of 10,544 acres has also been made to the Lower Souris Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in North Dakota.

The new refuges lie along important flyways. They add new breeding grounds in the north, stopping and resting points at strategic points and, on the Gulf of Mexico, places where migratory birds and waterfowl may find additional safe winter grounds that are under the supervision of the Biological Survey.

All have been established as refuges by Executive orders of President Roosevelt.

The Lacassine Refuge is a 31,125-acre area in Cameron Parish, western Louisiana, near the Gulf. It embraces a marshy tract that serves as a wintering place for waterfowl, other migratory birds, and other wildlife. Five kinds of geese--Canada, Hutchins's, white-fronted, lesser snow, and blue--winter on the refuge, as do at least 18 species of ducks. Rails, gallinules, coots, woodcocks, and Wilson's snipes are among the other common wintering birds. Fulvous tree ducks, mottled ducks, and blue-winged teals nest there. Alligators, which have been diminishing rapidly, are part of the refuge population. Minks, otters, and raccoons, native to this section, are other resident species.

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The Aransas Refuge, on the southeast coast of Texas, contains 47,215 acres in Aransas and Refugio Counties and extends over Black Jack Peninsula. A narrow island, serving as a barrier reef, separates this refuge from the Gulf of Mexico. Here ducks winter in great numbers and pelicans, herons, and curlews are to be found. Wild turkeys and deer, as well as other wildlife, live within the refuge. Naturalists of the Biological Survey noted more than 60 species of birds there one day last September.

The Huron Refuge consists of two small islands in Lake Superior three miles north of the Marquette County, Mich., shore line. The area is a haven for gulls and shorebirds, as well as for migratory waterfowl, which use it as a resting spot.

The two new refuges in Montana were both acquired by the Federal Government through long-time easements granted by the property owners. They are within the breeding range of many species of waterfowl. In addition to conserving wildlife, the areas have other local benefits by conserving water supplies. The Black Coulee Refuge consists of 1,160 acres in Blaine County and the Hewitt Lake Refuge of 1,200 acres in Phillips County.

On the eastern coast of North Carolina, the Pea Island Refuge of 5,846 acres is a part of the long barrier reef lying east of the coast and separating Pamlico Sound from the Atlantic Ocean. It lies on the Atlantic flyway for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Snow geese, brant, redhead ducks, and thousands of Canada geese winter here.

Food is abundant on and around this low, sandy stretch, and fresh water pools on the island afford attractive places for certain species of ducks. Black ducks, black skimmers, terns, and laughing gulls nest at Pea Island, and many species stop here in their migratory flights.

The great expanse of beach makes it a favorite spot for shore birds and the advantages of Pamlico Sound, a shallow body of water, attract wading birds and waterfowl.